

BROADCAST 4437

DATE: Aug. 22, 2007

TO: Local Directors, Foster Care Supervisors, Independent Living Coordinators, Licensed Child Placing Agencies, Children's Residential Facilities, and CSA Coordinators

FROM: Lynette Isbell, Director, Division of Family Services
Therese Wolf, Foster Care Program Manager

TIME: 10:13 a.m.

SUBJECT: Educational and Vocational Training Funding Available for Foster Care Youth

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This Broadcast pertains to education and training funds available for foster care youth pursuing post-secondary education and training during the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

The federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program established the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program for foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 21 who meet the eligibility criteria. Youth adopted at 16 years of age or after are also eligible for ETV funding. ETV funds may be used to cover a wide range of expenses including such things as computers, books, fees, and post-secondary tutoring sessions. Payments will be made directly to the educational institution (or vendor) for current enrollment expenses. The ETV Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Social Services' Independent Living Program.

Local departments of social services (LDSS) are the primary referral source through which eligible youth may access ETV funds. The LDSS can help in completing the ETV student application for funding reimbursement. Licensed child placing agencies, children's residential facilities, and non-public agencies serving eligible youth should contact the youth's LDSS worker and request that an application for funding be submitted for those youth.

Vouchers of up to \$5,000.00 per year per youth are available for costs associated with colleges, universities, community colleges, and training programs. Youth attending college or vocational training for the fall semester of the 2007 – 2008 academic year should submit ETV student applications to the appropriate LDSS by **September 14, 2007**.

Applicant eligibility criteria and the application are available for LDSS through the Sparks page at: <http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/divisions/dfs/fc/forms.cgi>

Application criteria and the application are available on the public site at:

http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/education_training.html
<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/forms.cgi>

Any questions concerning the ETV Program or application requirements should be directed to the contact persons listed above.